

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Spero Payton

Serial No.: 10/753,886

Filed: January 7, 2004

Docket No.: P298.101.101

Title: MANUAL SNOWPLOW WITH A WOODEN BLADE

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

1.(Withdrawn) A manual snowplowing device comprising:

a rigid wooden blade having a length of not less than 36 inches;

a coupling device including:

a metal faceplate bolted to the wooden blade having a longest dimension not more than one-quarter the length of the blade,

a metal sleeve immovably welded to the face plate and having a terminal end extending angularly relative to the face plate; and

a handle including a distal section mounted within the sleeve of the coupling device;

wherein upon final assembly, extension of the handle relative to a vertical plane of the wooden blade defines an acute push angle.

2.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a snow plowing device further includes the metal faceplate defining a generally planar front face and the wooden blade defining a generally planar back face, and further wherein the two faces are flush.

3.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a snow plowing device further includes the handle extending from the terminal end of the metal sleeve to define the acute push angle.

4.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a snow plowing device further includes the faceplate being generally triangular in shape.

5.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a snow plowing device further includes the faceplate being generally rectangular in shape.

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6.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the faceplate has a length not more than one-sixth the length of the wooden blade.

7.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the faceplate has a length in the range of 6-8 inches.

8.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the snowplowing device is characterized by an absence of components contacting a back face of the wooden blade beyond a length of the face plate.

9.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a manual snow plowing device further includes the metal sleeve extending linearly from the metal faceplate.

10.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a manual snow plowing device further includes both the faceplate being the sleeve are formed of stainless steel.

11.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a manual snow plowing device further includes the wooden blade having a height of not less than 4.5 inches.

12.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein providing a manual snow plowing device further includes the wooden blade having a length of approximately 48 inches and a height of approximately 5.5 inches.

13.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a manual snow plowing device further includes the wooden blade being formed of pine wood.

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14.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a manual snow plowing device further includes the distal section of the handle including a metal jacket.

15.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a manual snow plowing device further includes the distal section of the handle being mounted within the sleeve by a bolting means.

16.(Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein providing a manual snow plowing device further includes the distal section of the handle and the sleeve including a plurality of corresponding threads.

17.(Currently Amended) A method of plowing snow comprising:

providing a manual snow plowing device including:

rigid wooden blade having a length of not less than 36 inches and a flat front face,

a coupling device comprising:

a metal faceplate immovably bolted to the wooden blade, the face plate having a longest dimension not more than one-quarter the length of the blade,

a metal sleeve immovably welded to the faceplate, the sleeve having a terminal end extending angularly relative to the faceplate,

a handle including:

a distal section mounted within the sleeve of the coupling device,

wherein upon final assembly, extension of the handle relative to a vertical plane of the blade defines an acute push angle; and

plowing a snow covered surface by imparting a push force on the handle, wherein ~~a~~ the flat front face of the wooden blade contacts a mass of snow and a bottom side of the wooden blade contacts the surface to be cleared of snow.

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- 18.(Original) The method of plowing snow of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises:
- unbolting the wooden blade from the faceplate;
  - rotating the wooden blade one hundred and eighty degrees, wherein a top side of the blade is located where the bottom side of the blade was previously situated in relation to the snow covered surface;
  - rebolting the wooden blade to the faceplate; and
  - plowing additional snow.
- 19.(Withdrawn) A kit of parts for assembly into a manual snowplowing device comprising:
- a rigid wooden blade having a length of not less than 36 inches;
  - a coupling device including:
    - a metal faceplate having a longest dimension not more than one-quarter the length of the blade,
    - a metal sleeve removably welded to the faceplate and having a terminal end extending at an angle relative to the faceplate; and
  - a handle including a distal section to be mounted within the sleeve of the coupling device;
- wherein the kit is configured such that upon final assembly, extension of the handle relative to a vertical plane of the blade defines an acute push angle.
- 20.(Withdrawn) The kit of parts of claim 19, wherein the kit further comprises a set of directions for assembly and a plurality of fasteners to be used for assembly.